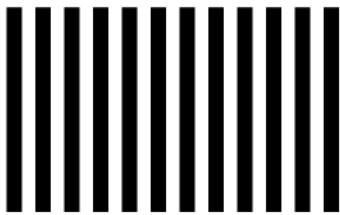


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White Cross continues to be a shower of blessings for many...

Please share this magazine with:

- White Cross coordinator
- Leader of your women's ministry
- Mission committee

Inside you will find:

- Bulletin inserts from White Cross ministries
- Bible study for White Cross
- Fundraising ideas and much more

Visit the White Cross Web site at www.abc-whitecross.org for additional information and resources.

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God's love
across the
United States
and around
the world
since 1919.



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
White Cross Magazine
2007-2010



An Introduction to White Cross

Baby layettes for low-income moms. Hospital gowns, towels, and roller bandages. Craft materials for kids in safe after-school programs. Money to buy medicine for tuberculosis patients. School supplies for children in families of modest means.

These are just a few examples of White Cross contributions that provide direct support for Christian mission in this country and around the world.

For many years, American Baptists have been providing a shower of blessings to people in need. During World War I, church women assisted the American Red Cross by providing surgical dressings, roller bandages, and other medical supplies for U.S. service personnel. In 1919, following the end of the war, two American Baptist women from Cleveland, Ohio organized the White Cross Service League, channeling the war effort into support for Baptist mission.



White Cross has been embraced by local churches throughout the United States, and congregations are eager to fill specific requests from mission workers. Through White Cross gifts, church members provide urgently-needed supplies that cannot be purchased with limited mission budgets.

Through the years, American Baptist women have given leadership in this ministry, which now provides some \$750,000 annually in mission support. Entire congregations often work together to fill White Cross requests.

The importance of White Cross is undiminished today, and the need for both funds and practical items is greater than ever. American Baptists are generous and caring people with a heart for mission. White Cross needs you so that we can continue to be a shower of blessings to others.



First Baptist Church
N. Kingstown, R.I.

BULLETIN INSERTS Overland White Cross



THE MIRACLE OF THE YARN NEEDLES

"And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19, NRSV).

How well I remember the day when I was leading a group of 20 first and second graders and needed yarn needles for my project. I looked all over the church and the White Cross cupboard, but I couldn't find even one yarn needle for the kids to share. I decided I would adapt the project as I went along so that we could get by without needles, but I didn't have a good plan.

Just then my husband brought in a White Cross package and insisted I open it immediately. I was annoyed with him because I didn't want to be interrupted—I knew how easily I could lose the attention of these 20 wiggly kids. But my husband insisted, and I gave in. While I opened the box, I attempted to explain to the children who it was from—some nice people who knew about the Christian center in Cordova.

Can you imagine how my attitude changed from being annoyed to being overjoyed as I opened the box and saw 25 yarn needles just the right size for my project? I stopped right then to change my focus and ask the kids to pray with me, thanking God for supplying our needs through the sweet women who sent the package.

I also shared with the kids how White Cross is a perpetual shower of blessings. In a community where it rains more than 200 inches a year, and where the rain showers often turn into deluges, the kids understood the meaning of showers. Now, seeing our needs met just when we were stuck and couldn't go any further, they also understood showers of blessing.

Truly, in Cordova, White Cross is always a shower of blessings.

—Susan Harding,
Cordova Community Christian Center, Cordova, Alaska

BULLETIN INSERTS Overland White Cross



SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

"I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing" (Ezekiel 34:26b, NRSV).

Having been on both sides of White Cross ministries, I have come to realize that the supplies sent to the mission field are indeed showers of blessings.

I admit that when requests were made for donations to White Cross in my home church in southeastern Ohio, I did not readily respond. However, now that I am serving as principal at Hopi Mission School on Arizona's Hopi Reservation, I have firsthand experience of the blessings that come from White Cross boxes.

When our school supply closet needs restocking, it seems God always supplies our needs through the White Cross ministry. Seeing the excitement of our students when we have our "Christmas store" so they can "shop" for gifts for family members touches my heart. Thanks to those who make donations in their local churches, the supplies arrive at just the right time.



When God sends me back to Ohio and the church requests donations for the White Cross boxes, I will be among the first to respond, knowing that I'll be contributing to God's shower of blessings for those serving on mission fields.

—Bonnie Smith,
Hopi Mission School,
Kykotsmovi, Arizona

BULLETIN INSERTS Overseas White Cross



DEFEATING TUBERCULOSIS IN CAMBODIA

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, . . . who heals all your diseases" (Psalm 103:2-3, MSRJV).

White Cross has been essential to our tuberculosis (TB) project in rural Cambodia. Because of the execution of most doctors during the Khmer Rouge years, the backlog of untreated diseases, and ongoing poor nutrition in this part of Cambodia, TB has become a huge problem—far greater than AIDS and the infamous bird flu and other health problems combined. Cambodian national statistics report less than a 0.5 percent TB rate in the country, but we are finding an epidemic rate of at least 10 to 20 times that in the villages around our home.

Villagers are poorly educated about TB and there is no public pressure, nor are there any legal ramifications, for those who refuse to be treated. If a man infected with TB rejects treatment, he may go about the village coughing on his family and other folks, infecting them as well. Many people do not like to admit they have TB, because there is a common local perception that people get TB only if they are of poor genetic stock.

We are educating villagers and leaders, encouraging them to put pressure on neighbors to get treated. But this is a long-haul educational effort. Meanwhile, it is poor practice if we are not able to treat all infected persons.

Perhaps the worst problem is poverty, which goes hand-in-hand with TB. Many villagers are very poor, often lacking adequate farmland or a well for a garden. Consequently, they are poorly nourished. Like Americans, Cambodians eat highly milled rice (the bran is fed to the pigs), which is devoid of B vitamins.



Without the means to buy meat, eggs, or other forms of protein, the villagers face a serious lack of B vitamins in their rice, which is their main staple. Their bodies need good nourishment to fight off the TB bacteria. Furthermore, some villagers drink, smoke, or chew betel nuts—all habits that decrease the body's immune ability and inhibit recovery. We require patients to stop these habits during treatment, but it is no simple matter to enforce this prohibition.

White Cross funds have saved numerous lives by purchasing TB drugs and vitamins for rural Cambodians. In addition, the project has allowed ample opportunity to share God's love and Good News with these folks. We are very grateful that now most of our TB project staff are Christians. This has created many opportunities to share the gospel, pray for people, provide good care, and generally show kindness to those who are ill and poor. A number of these villagers have already come to the Lord. The TB program has been an excellent opportunity to bear witness to God's love.

—John and Debra Coats, missionaries serving in Cambodia through International Ministries



BEE KEEPERS

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it"
(Genesis 2:15, NRSV).

The beekeeping project among Mapuche churches and communities in southern Chile serves one of the purposes of Barbara and Dwight Bolicks' ministry: to help Mapuche men and women discover their vocation as productive stewards of God's creation.

Experienced beekeepers will tell you that there are two kinds of people who work with bees. "Bee havers" take honey from the hives without tending to the well-being of the bees. They exploit, instead of "keep," the bees. "Bee keepers," by contrast, watch and study the bees to learn how to keep them healthy. They make sure the hive is safe from hunger, disease, and predators. They are partners with the bees in a sustainable livelihood.

Ivan Catrin and Alfonso Coñoepan were two of the first beneficiaries of White Cross funds for starting bee keeping. They are now in their third year and "keep" 15 to 20 hives each. Sales of the honey provide a supplement to their families' income, helping them move beyond subsistence.

Alfonso is training his daughter, Dorca, to be a beekeeper. She, like many other young people, wants to stay in the rural area and thrive. This is indeed God's creation vision.

White Cross funding is also allowing us to expand to another community, Isla Huapi, on the coast. We are establishing a more formal program, training and accompanying a group of ten people for two years. In exchange for the start-up equipment and bees, they must give back a complete colony of bees from their established hives for new participants in the program to use.

This is the vision. Thank you, White Cross, for helping us run with it and accompany our Mapuche brothers and sisters in their quest to be productive stewards—"keepers" of God's creation.

—Dwight and Barbara Bolick, missionaries serving in Chile
through International Ministries

FUNDRAISING IDEAS—Having Fun While Promoting White Cross

BAKELESS CAKE

Calculate the cost of the ingredients you would need if you were to make a cake, brownies, or cookies. Then take that amount of cash and donate it to White Cross.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Hold a garage sale, joining with women from other churches. Put all the proceeds toward a White Cross request. This will not only raise money but also give the participants a chance to have fun for the day with other women.

ROCK-A-THON AND WALK-A-THON

Have kids or youth gather pledges for White Cross in return for participating in a rock-a-thon, a walk-a-thon—or any other "a-thon" you can think of. Hold the event in conjunction with an all-nighter at the church where the young people learn about missions. This will get the younger generation involved in learning from the older women the purpose of White Cross.

HIRE A YOUTH

Ask teens to volunteer for Saturday odd jobs or cleaning projects at a predetermined hourly rate, donating the proceeds to White Cross—or suggest other ways for them to raise money by working. Don't forget proven

ideas like hoagie sales, cookie sales, and car washes. Busy teens will turn out for a project that touches their hearts.

WHITE CROSS CHRISTMAS TREE

Decorate a small Christmas tree with ornaments that name the items needed for your White Cross project. Encourage individuals to take an ornament naming an item they are willing to purchase. Make sure they know the date for bringing in their items. Before you pack the materials for shipping, plan a dedication service with a Christmas theme.

BALLOON POPPING

Write your White Cross request items on slips of paper, and insert each slip of paper inside a balloon. Then inflate and tie the balloon. (You may wish to separate balloons by those designating items costing more than \$5 and those designating less expensive items.) At your White Cross event, have each person select a balloon, place it on a hard chair, and then sit on the balloon. Pop! When the balloons have popped, have everyone locate their slips of paper and see what item they should bring for White Cross. Designate a person to write down who will be bringing which item.

BIBLE STUDY

White Cross: A Shower of Blessings

Picture a rain shower in your mind. Listen to the raindrops on the roof and hear the sounds they make. For some of us, rain showers are wonderful. They are an answer to prayer. They make crops and flower gardens grow.

Now think of a bridal shower or a baby shower. Picture the excitement of the bride-to-be, or the new mom. Think of the shower of gifts that the guests have brought to her. Envision an umbrella, open and upended, filled and overflowing with gifts.

Next, think of your White Cross request and the list of items on it—items that the missionaries need and want. Think of the women willing to fill that request and send it off. And as you are thinking, consider this story.

Imagine you are a White Cross chairperson and your group is working on your new request. When it comes time to pack the items, you are excited to see all the gifts, and you know the missionary will be excited to receive them. But you hesitate to include one particular item—a teddy bear that, to be honest, seems very poorly made. You want to honor the contributions of everyone in the room, however—and maybe it was just designed to be different—so you put the teddy bear into the box. Off it goes to its final destination—the Christian center in Cordova, Alaska.

The missionary receives your letter, with a note about this one particular item that you weren't sure should be included. She waits expectantly to see this box and this special teddy bear you have mentioned. She is expecting the bear to be quite something, and indeed it is different. But she still thinks it will find a home, so she takes it to the center and puts it on a shelf for prospective buyers to see at the upcoming bazaar.

The day of the sale arrives, and a woman well-known for her sewing prowess comes in. She loves the bear! She snatches it up and even requests three more just like it. Of course the missionary has to tell her that it is unique, special, one-of-a-kind. The woman is disappointed, but she leaves, clutching her bear closely to her.

At the end of the bazaar, the missionary hurries home to write the White Cross chair of the day's events and the blessing that the bear brought to her and to the woman who bought it. The bazaar goes on to become an annual shower of White Cross blessings that has grown and grown.

We often jump to conclusions about gifts. We think we have nothing to give, or that our gift will be unacceptable, but as Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ... ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40b, KJV). When we give in his name, we do it for him.

Ask the women in your group to think of a gift they can give in Jesus' name. Have them write the name of this gift down on a slip of paper. Suggest several items that may be appropriate for your group's situation, including items from the White Cross request, needs of your own church, and needs in your community. Ask the women to come forward and put their slips of paper in a basket. Then have them join hands in a circle as you lead them in repeating Matthew 25:40 together before praying.

—Susan Harding, Cordova Community Christian Center, Cordova, Alaska



“Inasmuch as

ye have done

it unto one of

the least of

these ... ye

have done it

unto me”

(Matthew 25:40b, KJV).

DEDICATION SERVICE

“White Cross: An Answer to Prayer”

By Laura and David Parajon, medical missionaries serving in Nicaragua through International Ministries

Hymns selected by Joan Parajon, retired IM missionary

Place Overseas White Cross supplies on table in front of sanctuary: medications, supplies, layettes.

Hymn: *We are Called to be God's People*

Words by Thomas Jackson

Music: Haydn Broadman Press

Reading:

- Reader 1
- Reader 2
- Angelina (*young girl in church*)
- Mother (*dress in simple clothes, a worn-out skirt and blouse*)
- Father (*dress in simple clothes, worn-out pants and a flannel shirt. Carry a shovel*)
- Health promoter: (*dress in simple clothes, carry a stethoscope*)

READER 1: Read Isaiah 65: 17:20.

READER 2: These White Cross gifts mean life to many women and children who live in the poorest countries of the world where people do not have access to simple medicines and supplies. As in this passage in the book of Isaiah, there are countries where many children die when they are just a few days old. There are no clinics anywhere nearby, and they live in poverty.

READER 1: Our giving here in the United States is an answer to prayer for many people living in remote places all around the world. Let's hear about how your giving is helping many people in Nicaragua.

MARIA (HEALTH PROMOTER): Que Dios les bendiga. (May God bless you). I am Maria and I am a community health worker in a village of rural Nicaragua. My village elected me several years ago to serve my community as their health promoter. I had only a fourth grade education, but I wanted to learn more to serve in the name of Jesus. We live in a place where we often do not have enough to eat, where there are very few jobs, and we are often plagued by either droughts or heavy rains. It takes two hours to walk to the nearest clinic, and when we get there, often there is no medicine. Your medical missionaries from International Ministries trained me to be able to diagnose and treat the most common illnesses in my

community. Today, our community runs a small clinic, and thanks to White Cross, we are able to provide basic medications and supplies to help save the lives of many women and children in our community.

READER 2: American Baptist missionaries Dr. David and Dr. Laura Parajon receive funds to help purchase supplies for rural community clinics like Maria's throughout rural Nicaragua. They serve with American Baptist missionary Kristina Gutierrez to help train health promoters. They are also able to help patients like Angelina who do not have enough money to buy their medications. Let's hear from Angelina's mother and father.

MOTHER: My daughter Angelina was two years old—and weighed only 18 pounds—when we met Dr. David and Dr. Laura. Angelina could not walk or talk or smile when we brought her to see them. We live in a small village by the Tortise River in the middle of Nicaragua. We took Angelina to many doctors and we had to ride many hours by horseback. No one had an answer for us

FATHER: We heard that there were doctors who were at the village to train our people in how to heal our sicknesses. We had nowhere else to turn. We had run out of prayers, and so we packed up our horse, and we made the 13-hour journey to the community of Nawawas on a very small hope. I left my farm with my brother, and asked him to watch over the beans that I was tending.

MOTHER: We found out that the doctors there were teaching our people to be our own doctors. We were very surprised when Maria came first to see us – she was one of us, but she knew what the doctors had taught her. She listened to us and she prayed for us. She told us that there was something wrong with my child. She told us that she knew how to treat very common and basic sicknesses like diarrhea and pneumonia that usually kill our children here in the campo (rural areas), but that this was more serious, and she would talk to the doctors for us to see what we could do.

FATHER: The doctors brought us back with them to the city. And were able to get an operation for Angelina, but we had no money for medicines. We had no place to stay. But we were fed and clothed and were given medicine for Angelina by your churches.

MOTHER: We talked to the missionaries about the story of Jesus. About how He came to save us, and came to show us a better way where people would care for one another- so that there would be no children who die before their time, and so that there would be no people who go hungry or do not have a home. How Jesus does not leave anyone behind, even if they live far away in the jungles like we do. We talked about how Jesus' love is for everyone, the whole world.

FATHER: We all came to understand that Jesus is all about helping one another, that we are His hands and His feet in this world, working for the Kingdom of God.

ANGELINA: *(walks up to the mother and father and gives them a hug and then turns to face the crowd).* Even though you are far away, and we have never met you, it touches our heart that you care for us in the name of Jesus. In spite of all that has kept you and us apart: thousands of miles in distance, language differences, cultural differences, availability of healthcare and resources, experiences we have each lived...you have overcome it and have given us an answer to prayer that has made us feel the love of Christ.

READER 2: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "As long as there is poverty in the world, I can never be totally rich...As long as people are afflicted with debilitating diseases, I can never be totally healthy...I can never be what I ought to be, until you are what you ought to be."

Hymn: *Take my Life and Let it be Consecrated*
words by Frances Havergal
Music by Henri Malan



SUGGESTED CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you for listening to our prayers, for knowing our hearts and our every need. We thank you also for responding to our needs, with your ever-present love in our lives.

We have been touched by the depth of the needs of people around the world, even here at home. We ask that you may use us today, as your hands and your feet, to respond to those in need, showing them your love.

We know that you so loved the whole world, not just part of the world, that you sacrificed your only son so that all could find eternal life through Him. Your message and your love is for all ... the wholeness, the health, the life you intended is for all your children wherever they may be. Please show us, help us to be more like Jesus, responding to those who are suffering, to those who are sick, to those who are alone, to those who are in need of healing ... that they may feel your loving touch in their lives. We ask that just as those whom we serve are a blessing to us, so we too may be a blessing to them through what we do. We ask for our partners around the world, missionaries around the world, churches everywhere, that we may all learn to be better disciples and have an open heart towards those who are in need.

We dedicate these gifts to your glory, hoping that as we bring them and ourselves before you, we can all be a part of your greater plan to change a world of sickness and sorrow for one of health, life and hope for those in most need. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q. If the request specifies roller bandages, may we make and send more roller bandages than the amount requested? Does the roller bandage material have to be white?

A. Yes, you may make more roller bandages than requested. Pastel and flowered materials are acceptable, though they should be made of cotton or cotton blends.

Q. May we send money instead of making roller bandages or sending patchwork pieces? If so, how?

A. Yes, you may. On the Overseas Payment Form, lines 2, 4, 5, and 6 are specifically for this purpose. Simply indicate the dollar amount you are sending on the appropriate line(s).

Q. Where can we send quilts or quilt squares?

A. Call the numbers below for mission locations that can use quilts or quilt squares.

Q. How do I know where to ship my handwork?

A. The address for each recipient is listed on the back of the Handwork sheet. If you didn't receive this sheet, contact your White Cross area or association coordinator or call the numbers below.

Q. With postage costs so high, is it really worth sending the materials?

A. Please consider postage costs as a part of your mission giving. Some mission recipients are located far from shopping areas, and materials must be shipped there. You may contact recipients directly to ask if they can use money or gift cards instead of materials.

Q. If we don't receive a response from recipients, how do we know if the materials we sent have been delivered?

A. If you have followed shipping instructions and the package was not returned to you, you may assume that your package arrived safely.

Q. My church did not receive a White Cross assignment.

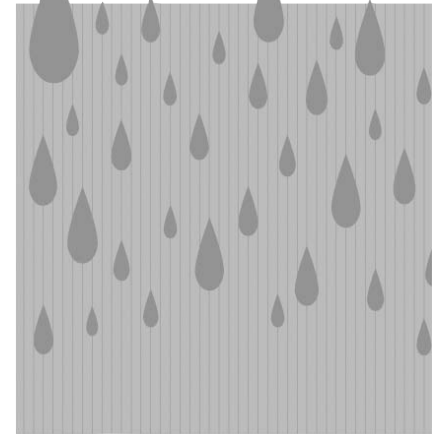
A. If your group is part of American Baptist Women's Ministries, please call the region or state White Cross coordinator to check on your assignment. Or call the numbers below.

Q. No sizes are listed on my Overland request.

A. If no sizes are listed, please know that all sizes are needed and your White Cross gift will be much appreciated.

If you have specific questions regarding your White Cross projects or would like more information about White Cross, please contact the contact the White Cross coordinators at 800-ABC-3USA (800-222-3872) and add extension 2449 (overland) or extension 2207 (overseas).

White Cross: A Shower of Blessings



“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me.”

(MATTHEW 25:40b, KJV)



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
White Cross Magazine
2007-2010

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Use these materials to help your entire church learn how White Cross provides a shower of blessings in the United States and around the world. Encourage everyone—youth, Sunday school classes, men's and women's groups, and others—to get involved with White Cross projects. All can share their gifts and talents to provide blessings through White Cross. Look over the fundraising ideas on page 4. Keep track of progress in fulfilling your goals—then celebrate!

Some Ideas

- Set a time to promote White Cross. Show how funds and donations will be used.
- Ask your pastor about using the Bible study on page 5 during a worship service, Sunday school class, or other fellowship gathering.
- Hold a dedication service for your White Cross gifts (see pages 6 and 7).
- Share the mission stories found in the bulletin inserts, on pages 2, 3 and 4, in a worship service, Sunday school class, or other fellowship gathering.
- Pray for the mission needs expressed throughout this magazine.
- Plan a mission trip to deliver your White Cross gifts.
- Ask your children's church group or Sunday school class to create White Cross placemats for a congregational lunch or dinner using the “Shower of Blessings” theme.

To find additional White Cross resources such as litanies, dedication services, Bible studies and information about American Baptist-related mission in the United States and other countries, visit www.abc-whitecross.org or contact the White Cross coordinators at 800-ABC-3USA (800-222-3872) and add extension 2449 (overland) or extension 2207 (overseas).

Evaluation

This magazine is designed to help you tell the White Cross story and involve everyone in your church in American Baptist mission.

- 1 How did your women's group(s) use this White Cross magazine?

- 2 Did others in your church use this White Cross magazine? If so, who: Adults, Youth, Children, Mission Committee, Pastor, AB Girls, Men's Group, Other
Please share how it was used.

- 3 Did you find the Bible Study and Dedication Service helpful?

- 4 Did you photocopy any material for your church bulletins or newsletters? If so, what?

- 5 Did you use any other White Cross resources? Brochures, Bookmarks, Magnets
Please share how you used the resource(s).

- 6 Did you visit the White Cross Web site (www.abc-whitecross.org)? _____
If so, was the material helpful and easy to find?

- 7 Please tell us how we might make these materials serve you more effectively.

- 8 What ideas do you have for other White Cross promotional materials?

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Church _____
Church Address _____
Church City, State, Zip _____
Church Phone _____

Thank you for your thoughts and ideas! Please photocopy this page and send to:

Overland White Cross
National Ministries
PO Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851



- Please send us these free White Cross materials:
- White Cross brochures - in packages of 100, _____ quantity
 - Additional copies of this White Cross magazine, _____ quantity
 - White Cross magnets - in packages of 50, _____ quantity
 - White Cross bookmarks - in packages of 25, _____ quantity
 - Information about recipient or missionary:
Name(s) _____
 - I would like to become a mission partner through White Cross. **Please contact me.**
Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Church _____
Church Address _____
Church City, State, Zip _____
American Baptist Region _____

Call . . .

800-ABC-3USA (800-222-3872)

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